colleges that no student shall be denied admission on the ground of any 'gap period'.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Status of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses

2627. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses, which was launched in May, 1986;

(b) whether any evaluation has been done in this regard;

(c) if so, what is the result;

(d) when is our country likely to be self-sufficient in oilseeds an pulses;

(e) what is the annual quantity of oilseeds and pulses which Government imports from outside, togetherwith its value and the names of the countries; and

(f) what steps are being taken to make more improvement on this front?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds was launched in May, 1986 with an objective to produce 16.5 million tonnes of oilseeds in 1989-90, cut down the import of oils by half in five years and that a long term objective to produce 26 million tonnes of oilseeds (8 million tonnes of edible oils) by 2000 AD. The Mission achieved the above short term objective and upto the year 1995-96, the oilseeds production has already reached the level of 22.90 million tonnes. With the success registered in oilseeds, the pulses have been added to the Mission in August, 1990. The Mission's structure remains the same and Mission continues with the coverage of pulses in addition to oilseeds.

(b) and (c) The programme administered by the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses i.e. Oilseeds Production Programme on oilseeds and National Pulses Development Project on pulses is being evaluated by the Agricultural Finance Corporation. The Mission has achieved a major success in the oilseeds production which has gone up from 10.83 million tonnes in 1985-86, when the Mission was launched to 22.90 million tonnes (estimated) in 1995-96 with productivity going up from 570 kg./ha. in 1985-86 to 873 kg./ha. in 1995-96. In the case of pulses also, the production has gone up from 12.80 million tonnes in 1989-90 to 14.97 million tonnes (estimated) in 1995-96 with productivity going up from 578 kg./ha. in 1989-90 to 638 kg./ha. in 1995-96.

(d) The Mission has already achieved short term goal of increasing production of oilseeds. The target of 23 million tonnes fixed for the Eighth Plan by the Planning Commission is likely to be achieved. There is, however, a shortfall in the production of pulses which is likely to persist in the coming years. To raise the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, efforts are on the way through implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) in the country.

(e) During the year 1995-96 (April-March), 4.49 lakh tonnes of pulses valued at Rs. 630.67 crores were imported from Myanmar, Australia, Canada, Turkey, Thailand etc. Oilseeds worth Rs. 36.87 crores were imported from Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America.

(f) In order to increase the production and the productivity of these crops, Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) are under implementation in various States in the country. Under these programmes, financial assistance is provided for production and distribution of seed, distribution of seed minikits, rhyzobium culture, gypsum/pyrites, improved farm

implements, sprinkler set etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmer's fields to transfer the production technology.

Expansion of Chandigarh Railway Station

2628. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chandigarh Railway Station is a very important station being the Capital of the two States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a very large area of Railway land is lying vacant outside the station for expansion of a big Terminal easily; and

(c) if so, whether any survey has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is adequate land available for expansion of the facilities at the Station, as and when such an expansion becomes necessary to cope with an increase in volume of traffic and number of trains being run, and subject to availability of funds.

(c) No, Sir.

Incentives to Farmers for shifting to Food Crops

2629. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering steps to provide incentives to the farmers to shift to food crops particularly the coarse foodgrains crops;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof;

(c) whether this should not be dovetailed with the imperatives of food security; and

(d) the details of the food security status projections for 2000 AD?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The strategy and Programme of the Government are aimed for balanced growth of food and non foodgrain crops to meet the requirement of various commodities. As part of the effort to ensure supply of adequate quantity of foodgrains, Government of India is providing incentives for increasing production and productivity of coarse cereals through crop oriented schemes namely Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals based cropping system areas.

(d) The foodgrain production in the country during 1990-91 to 1994-95 has shown a compund rate of growth of about 2.46% per annum. This rate of growth in production of foodgrain is likely to be sustained in Ninth Five Year Plan as the rate of growth of food production is likely to be higher than the rate of growth of population which is around 2% per annum. The food security status is likely to remain comfortable by the year 2000 AD.

Railway booking as Allied Service in Delhi Offices

2630. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Offices and Department in Delhi where railway booking is functioning as an allied service;

(b) the policy and criteria for posting staff and officers at such places;

(c) the policy and criteria for transfer of such staff and officers;

(d) whether Government are aware that posting at one place for a long period results into malpractices; and

(e) the steps being taken to avoid long stay of officers and staff at one place?